

Friends Meeting House,
Village of Quaker-Street
Schenectady County, N .Y.

HABS No. NY-347

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HABS
NY,
47-QUAK-
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Historic American Buildings Survey
Andrew L. Delehanty, District Officer
123 North Pearl St., Albany, N.Y.

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE
VILLAGE OF QUAKER-STREETHABS
N.Y. QUAKER
47-1-

OWNER: Society of Friends.

DATE OF ERECTION: 1807

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Unknown

NUMBER OF STORIES: Two story and attic

MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION: Frame building on a dry stone foundation, without cellar. Painted white, both on the outside and inside. It has a slate roof

ADDITIONAL DATA: The little village of Quaker Street, in the town of Duaneburg, Schenectady County, N.Y. is one of the oldest settlements in that part of the State. Here came, to carve their homes from the wilderness, many families from the older Friends' Settlement along the Hudson, and even from the Colonies farther East. Here too, more than one hundred years ago they built a log house in which to worship and later, the present Quaker Street meeting house was erected.

The seats are wooden benches with backs, and are comfortably cushioned. The windows are above the level of the person's head when sitting, and filled with small old fashioned panes.

The partition which separated the mens' and womens' meetings was removed in 1885, joint sessions having been held for some years before this time. The second story is a gallery built to accomodate the larger congregations of older days, since 1807 to 1828, the meetings consisted of about 200 members. The building for many years was used as a meeting hall for the Good Templers.

The first marriage recorded in the log meeting house occurred on October 12, 1806, Gershon Mosher and Ruth Wood. The first in the new house occurred March w, 1808 when Joseph Wing and Deborah Tallman were married.

Reference: "The Utah Genealogical and Historical Magazine. Vol. 4, page 64.

There are two entrances to the building and a full length porch across the front. Originally it was without this porch and partitioned in the middle, with a gallery or second floor; also partitioned; on three sides and an open well at the back-it had separate stairways at opposite ends of the building.

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

Route 7, village of QUAKER-STREET.

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(Page 1)

Owner: Society of Friends:

Date of Erection: 1807

Architect: (Unknown)

Builder: (Unknown)

Present Condition: Aside from slight alterations, the structure is perfectly preserved, having been in continuous service since erection.

It is a plain two story and attic frame building on a dry stone wall foundation without cellar.

A pitched slate roof, plain board siding painted white, two entrances and a full length porch across the front completes the exterior appearance as at present.

Originally, without porch and partitioned in the middle, with a gallery or second floor; also partitioned; on three sides and an open well at the back it had separate stairways at opposite ends of the building to correspond with the separate entrances for men & women.

This dividing partition has been removed from both the first and second floors, leaving a portion at the rear of the first floor to serve as support for the flooring which has been placed over the former wall. The stairway at the west end has also been floored over and the steps are at present used for book storage.

Number of Stories: Two story and attic.

Materials of Construction: The foundation wall is of local blue stone laid up dry. The frame is of heavy hand hewn timbers mortised and tenoned and showing the wood pinning in the roof trusses. The floor and roof boards are of varying width from eight to twenty inches and the wainscoting on the first floor is of sixteen inch wide beaded boards run horizontally. The wainscoting on the second floor is of more recent date, vertical, and of alternate light and dark boards four inches wide.

The chimney, starting at the attic floor with a stone slab base, is laid on timbers resting on the roof trusses.

The original second floor sash have been replaced with single light sash except at the east end, but the lower floor still retains the original sash.

The interior finish is rough plaster above the wainscoting, laid over hand riven lath and is painted a light gray except for the second floor wainscoting noted above.

The stairways are of plain enclosed string type, and the seats originally were all placed longitudinally with a characteristic raised section of two rows at the rear with what appears to have been a canopy extending over the back row.

The short section of partition wall at the rear bisects the back row of this raised section and has an opening which at one time was probably closed with a sash.

The columns supporting the second floor are round with a square cap and base and made from the solid log.

The benches are of plain wooden construction with two back rails and solid board ends.

Other references: Munsells History of Albany and Schenectady Counties 1886.

George. H. Vaughan